

[0029] Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

- 1 1. A wind guard for use on a pickup mechanism attachable to the frame of a
- 2 crop harvesting machine, said wind guard comprising:
  - 3 an elongate wind guard pipe extending transversely of said pickup
  - 4 mechanism;
  - 5 a plurality of tines attached to said wind guard pipe along the length
  - 6 thereof;
  - 7 said wind guard pipe being movable in a first direction upwardly and away
  - 8 from said pickup mechanism and in a second direction downwardly and toward
  - 9 said pickup mechanism during operation of said pickup mechanism;
  - 10 first and second support links supporting said wind guard pipe, each
  - 11 having first and second opposing ends, said first ends of said support links
  - 12 pivotably affixed to said pickup mechanism;
  - 13 said second ends of said first and second support links each having an
  - 14 open U-shaped slot therein into which said wind guard pipe is fitted;
  - 15 a first latch plate having a semi-circular cutout therein of a diameter
  - 16 sufficient to partially enclose said wind guard pipe, said first latch plate pivotably
  - 17 affixed to said first support link adjacent said U-shaped slot therein and movable
  - 18 between a latched position where said cutout partially encloses said wind guard
  - 19 pipe and an unlatched position where said cutout does not partially enclose said
  - 20 wind guard pipe; and
  - 21 a latch retainer interconnectable between each said respective latch plate
  - 22 and support link to prevent inadvertent movement of said first and second latch
  - 23 plates to the unlatched position.
- 1 2. The wind guard of claim 1, wherein:
  - 2 said first and second latch plates are pivotably affixed to respective first
  - 3 and second support links by spring bolts.

1 3. The wind guard of claim 2, wherein:

2 each said latch retainer includes a hole through the respective latch plate  
3 and a carriage bolt affixed through the respective support link, the rounded head  
4 of the carriage bolt positioned to engage said hole through the respective latch  
5 plate when the respective latch plate is in said latched position.

1 4. The wind guard of claim 3, wherein:

2 said support links are positioned such that the respective first ends thereof  
3 are adjacent the ends of said wind guard pipe.

1 5. In a wind guard for use on a pickup mechanism attachable to the frame of  
2 a crop harvesting machine, said wind guard including an elongate wind guard  
3 pipe held in position by first and second support links, each with a pivotable latch  
4 plate affixed thereto and positioned such that said latch plate engages said wind  
5 guard pipe in a latched position, the improvement comprising:

6 a latch retainer interconnectable between each said respective latch plate  
7 and support link to prevent inadvertent movement of said respective latch plates  
8 out of said latched position.

1 6. The improvement of claim 5, wherein:

2 said first and second latch plates are pivotably affixed to respective first  
3 and second support links by spring bolts.

1 7. The improvement of claim 6, further including:

2 each said latch retainer includes a hole through the respective latch plate  
3 and a carriage bolt affixed through the respective support link, the rounded head  
4 of the carriage bolt positioned to engage said hole through the respective latch  
5 plate when the respective latch plate is in said latched position.